ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

SITUATION REPORT

DATE: 2022-02-16 **FILE NAME: Project HENDON**

Report#: 045-2022 **Event: Freedom Convoy/BearHug 2.0**

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The information in this report is current to 2022-02-16 at 1330 hours.

The format of this Situation Report delineates between police information and information gathered through open sources. Media and social media information has been incorporated in this report towards developing all-source intelligence in support of providing greater context, and which may identify indicators, ideologies, and attitudes that could motivate subjects of interest and influence their behaviours.

OTTAWA: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

The OPP continues to be engaged in this initiative with resources on the ground providing real-time updates and observations to the National Capital Region Command Centre – Combined Intelligence Group as events unfold.

- Ottawa Police Service (OPS) and OPP police information report officers have been circulating and explaining the "OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE NOTICE TO DEMONSTRATION PARTICIPANTS". The NOTICE states: *"You must leave the area now. Anyone blocking streets, or assisting others in the blocking streets, are committing a criminal offence and you may be arrested. If you are arrested you may be released on bail depending on factors contained in Part XVI of the Criminal Code."* Among other warnings, participants could be charged with Mischief under the Criminal Code owing to the people of Ottawa being denied the lawful use, enjoyment and operation of their property as well as the closure of businesses. Charges and/or convictions arising from unlawful activity associated with the demonstration may lead to denial in crossing the United States border. The invocation of the Federal Emergencies Act provisions for the regulation or prohibition of travel to, or from, a specified area, which

effectively precludes additional supporters from joining the protest without breaking the law. (Picture of notice included on page 3.)

- OPS and OPP reporting note reactions from participants has ranged from polite acceptance to outright inflammatory responses with the overall sentiment being one of non-compliance. In some instances participants refused to acknowledge the notice as having any force in law. This is in line with previous reporting that indicated some participants espoused sovereign citizen ideals.
- OPS information reported an officer was alerted to an 'air tag' message on their Apple mobile device while in a vehicle. The 'air tag' was not known to the officer which could suggest the potential for unauthorized attempts to track information that could be used to identify officers' locations and patterns of life. "AirTags rely on the widely distributed Find My network of iPhones, iPads, and Macs, using Bluetooth to signal the devices."[1]
- OPS reported there remain approximately 450 trucks stationed in the downtown core of Ottawa.
- OPP police information reports some participants have taken steps to remove or conceal their licence plates.
- OPP police information located a "No Trespassing" notice. The form document appeared to be written using pseudo-legal language and contained passages such as: *"...pursuant to the Canadian Bill of Rights section 1(a), [...] and Criminal Code of Canada section 34, this notice is to all peace officers and other officials including: Police officers, municipal bylaw officers, public health officers and individuals acting as or on behalf of public officers and/or agents are prohibited from trespassing against persons and property..."* Additional sections included: "AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE *"you may be convicted when arrested and on conviction, be fined or jailed or the occupiers may use force against you pursuant to section 34 of the Criminal Code of Canada."*
- OPP police information located a group of eleven (11) Ottawa Freedom Convoy 2022 participants that had departed yesterday to attend southern Ontario. The participants when spoken to yesterday advised of an intention of returning to Ottawa today; in line with the provisions granted under the Emergency Measures Act their return is now unlawful. OPP were engaging with the group to advise.
- As of last night OPP reporting indicates that protestors viewed the announcements of Ottawa Police Chief SLOLY's resignation and the lifting of some provincial requirements for vaccine passports as victories.
- On February 15, 2022, end of day OPP reporting indicated there appeared to be a heightened awareness to, and scrutiny of, persons recording pedestrians as they walked by.

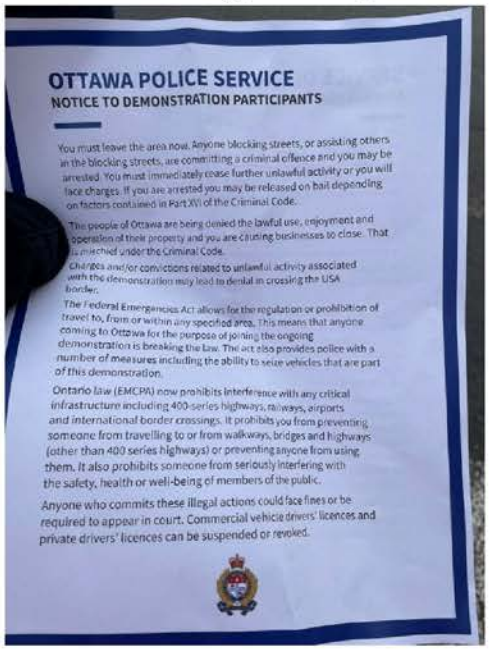
OTTAWA: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

[1] Source: Officer Safety: Apple AirTags, Intelligence Dissemination Report, New Jersey Regional Operations & Intelligence Center (NJ ROIC) Threat Analysis Unit, 13 January 2022.

- Open source research has identified the following:

  - Open source information depicts some participants of the occupation appear to be armed with edge weapons.
  - A "Message to parents at the Ottawa demonstration" was posted to the The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa (CASO) website urging parents at the demonstration to make the necessary alternate care arrangements should they become unable to care for their children following potential police action. (see link https://www.casott.on.ca/en/news-and-events/message-to-parents-at-the-ottawa-demonstration/)
  - An image of the Ottawa Police Notice to Demonstrations has been posted to the Freedom Convoy 2022 Facebook group page. (See image right)


OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
NOTICE TO DEMONSTRATION PARTICIPANTS

You must leave the area now. Anyone blocking streets, or assisting others in the blocking streets, are committing a criminal offence and you may be arrested. You must immediately cease further unlawful activity or you will face charges. If you are arrested you may be released on bail depending on factors contained in Part XVI of the Criminal Code.

The people of Ottawa are being denied the lawful use, enjoyment and operation of their property and you are causing businesses to close. That is mischief under the Criminal Code.

Charges and/or convictions related to unlawful activity associated with this demonstration may lead to denial in crossing the USA border.

The Federal Emergencies Act allows for the regulation or prohibition of travel to, from or within any specified area. This means that anyone coming to Ottawa for the purpose of joining the ongoing demonstration is breaking the law. The act also provides police with a number of measures including the ability to seize vehicles that are part of this demonstration.

Ontario law (EMCPA) now prohibits interference with any critical infrastructure including 400-series highways, railways, airports and international border crossings. It prohibits you from preventing someone from travelling to or from walkways, bridges and highways (other than 400 series highways) or preventing anyone from using them. It also prohibits someone from seriously interfering with the safety, health or well-being of members of the public.

Anyone who commits these illegal actions could face fines or be required to appear in court. Commercial vehicle drivers' licences and private drivers' licences can be suspended or revoked.

  - A video posted to the Freedom Convoy 2022 group last night issued "A Call to Action" asking for participants to come to Ottawa in increase support numbers. Alternatively, supporters who cannot travel to Ottawa, are encouraged to attend Toronto – interested individuals can private message to make arrangements. Local actions towards blocking MP's offices and buildings (City Halls) were also encouraged. Lastly, the message included information relating how to interact with police if enforcement should commence. (Note this was posted approximately 19 hours ago and prior to the OPS Notice to Demonstration Participants being issued.)
  - National organizer [redacted] posted a video to social media where he provided his thoughts and assessments of the Emergency Measures Act being invoked; concluding it is a scare tactic. He claims to know information concerning police planning and that 'they' will come in the middle of the night. He state that 'we have parked for 2 and a half weeks now outside the House of Commons [...] some very strategic positions'. It is unknown what [redacted] is referring although it could be interpreted as a veiled threat. He specifically mentions the OPP is currently conducting maneuvers and an LRAD (Long Range Acoustic Device) is flying into CFB Trenton this morning for Ottawa Police Service to use against protesters. [redacted] believes it's 'a sonic boom generator that will scramble your guts and blow your ears out.' Further, [redacted] made an appeal to law enforcement personnel to 'do the right thing' and stand down; noting 'we have been super nice to you'. 'If comes a time, we will link arms and sit on the ground and turn our backs on our men and women of law enforcement' and 'if have to we will change the entire policing structure.' [Note this video was recorded prior to the issuance of the OPS Notice to Demonstration Participants.]

- A video by the CRACKPOT FARMER in which he provides information relating to the structure on Wellington Street and the use of internet service provider Starlink, advising there are plans to install a universal message board. ***Analyst comment:*** *This level of technology could suggest some among the protest participants have advanced knowledge of telecommunications.*

TORONTO: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

- The Toronto Police Service (TPS) continues to monitor for potential upcoming protests.

TORONTO: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

- A video posted to the Freedom Convoy 2022 group last night issued "A Call to Action" asking for participants to come to Ottawa in increase support numbers. **Alternatively, supporters who cannot travel to Ottawa, are encouraged to attend Toronto – interested individuals can private message to make arrangements. Local actions towards blocking MP's offices and buildings (City Halls) were also encouraged. Lastly, the message included information relating how to interact with police if enforcement should commence.** (Note this was posted approximately 19 hours ago and prior to the OPS Notice to Demonstration Participants being issued.)
- A counter-demonstration banner drop action has been organized for Toronto. The group page "#KKKonvoyGoHome" provided the following details: Saturday, February 19, 2022, at 15:00 hours, at the Don Valley Parkway Pedestrian Bridge near (450 Broadview Avenue.)

AMBASSADOR BRIDGE:

- The Ambassador Bridge has fully re-opened and nearby routes are clear and controlled by police.
- Social media information suggests this remains a desirable location for protest. (see Appendix: Anticipated Events)

BLUE WATER BRIDGE:

- All vehicles blocking Highway 402 have been moved. The highway is clear.

PEACE BRIDGE:

- Police reporting indicates that the QEW and Peace Bridge remain open and traffic is normal.

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE (CORNWALL):

- No new information.

LANSDOWNE BRIDGE:

- No events at this port of entry.

NORTHWEST REGION:

- OPP reporting has identified a potential blockade at the Nipigon River Bridge scheduled for 2022-02-26.

ONTARIO: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

- The OPP continues to monitor for relevant information regarding local protests in OPP jurisdiction.
- Greater Sudbury Police Service and North Bay Police Service each advised of a small support convoy heading to Ottawa. The support convoy appears to have originated out of province and was located in Sudbury through an open social media page "Hard Hats for Freedom' which was additionally linked to a private Facebook Group, "Trades Support Truckers". This private group has 15,000 membership base.

ONTARIO: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

- A video posted to the Freedom Convoy 2022 group last night issued "A Call to Action" asking for participants to come to Ottawa in increase support numbers. Alternatively, supporters who cannot travel to Ottawa, are encouraged to attend Toronto – interested individuals can private message to make arrangements. Local actions towards blocking MP's offices and buildings (City Halls) were also encouraged. Lastly, the message included information relating how to interact with police if enforcement should commence. (Note this was posted approximately 19 hours ago and prior to the OPS Notice to Demonstration Participants being issued.)
- A support convoy originating out of province was located in Sudbury through an open social media page "Hard Hats for Freedom' which was additionally linked to a private Facebook Group, "Trades Support Truckers", which notably has 15,000 members.
- Refer to Appendix: Anticipated Events for upcoming local Freedom Movement support actions planned for a number of locations within Ontario.

OTHER

- As of 2022-02-15, the blockade at the Coutts, Alberta, border was cleared and traffic resumed crossing the border.
- Peel Regional Police reported the recovery of the stolen trailer containing a large quantity of .22 calibre long guns from a Peterborough yard early Sunday morning. Stakeholders remain engaged in an active investigation. There is no information at this time to suggest the theft was committed with a nexus to the Freedom Convoy 2022.

ASSESSMENT

The Freedom Movement, while operating largely decentralized and through grassroots organizing, has demonstrated both intent and capability toward committing ideologically motivated anti-government protest actions that have targeted critical infrastructure and posed a threat to the Canadian national interest, sovereignty, and the democratic process. In response, the Federal Government has acceded the Emergency Measures Act which incurred both early speculation relating to enforcement of the Ottawa blockade, as well as online rhetoric decrying a misuse of authority and evidence of government overreach. This morning OPS and OPP officers began serving a 'Notice to Demonstration Participants' which effectively deemed the blockade action unlawful and outlined a number of legal consequences for both participants and supporters. While reactions from participants have ranged from polite to inflammatory, some also reflected elements of sovereign citizen ideology. This is further evidenced by the civilian drafted pseudo-legal documents titled 'Notice to Trespass' which contained concerning language surrounding the use of force toward peace, police, and bylaw officers as granted by their interpretation of "section 34 of the Criminal Code of Canada". The presence of this kind of ideologically motivated extremism raises the potential for conflict leading to civil unrest and presents an immediate officer safety risk. It also suggests some participants will believe they are exempt from enforcement actions on private property which could raise the potential for barricaded-persons scenarios.

Observations of armed persons as well as the availability of heavy equipment poses a significant public safety risk from where some participants may become inspired to act on account of a real or perceived deteriorating position. Ideations of this kind may be manifesting as evidenced by the veiled threats issued by [redacted] in his video when he references having parked outside the House of Commons for the past two weeks and in some very strategic positions; turning their backs on our men and women of law enforcement'; and 'we will change the entire policing structure.' Collectively there appears to be a greater exhibition of hostility towards law enforcement.

This may extend to law enforcement and authority figures outside of Ottawa and appear more generally in the Freedom movement. Support actions could materialize sporadically and employ low-sophistication high impact tactics carried out by small groups or lone actors. Reporting indicates government assets and critical infrastructure

remain high value targets for the freedom movement. The possibility of an act of mischief against strategic targets should not be discounted. Elected government and public health officials may also attract protest actions as has been observed throughout the anti-mandate and anti-government movement. Currently, there is no specific intelligence identifying immediate locations, individuals, or actions.

Notably, there has been a downturn in social media posts of relevance and it appears fewer protest actions are being shared through open channels. While this could suggest interest in the Freedom movement is waning; there are early indicators that the opposite may be more so the case, where organizers are instead moving to platforms and modes of communication that are outside the reach of law enforcement. A heightened awareness to the possibility that protests and/or actions will erupt elsewhere in the province with a view to overwhelming / stretching law enforcement (diversion tactics to dilute police resources/capacity to respond) cannot be excluded. This potential may increase in light of the recent changes which effectively deem the Ottawa blockade and support to the blockade unlawful.

The ongoing freedom movement represents a long-term potential threat to public order and public safety in Canada. POIB remains attuned to changes within the threat landscape and engaged with partners towards the maintenance of public safety.

Appendix: Anticipated Events

OTTAWA			
CURRENT SITUATION - OTTAWA			
* see HENDON report			
ANTICIPATED EVENTS - OTTAWA			
DATE	**TIME**	**NAME**	**COMMENTS**
15 Feb 2022 to 18 Feb 2022	Various	Freedom Convoy 2022 Fort McMurray **15 Feb:** Fort McMurray – Edmonton – Lloydminster **16 Feb:** Saskatoon-Winnipeg **17 Feb:** Kenora-Thunder Bay **18 Feb:** SSM-Sudbury-Ottawa	• Organizers appear to be [redacted] • Tentative route: Fort McMurray – Edmonton – Lloydminster – Saskatoon – Winnipeg – Kenora – Thunder Bay – Sault Ste Marie – Sudbury – Ottawa • As of 14 Feb, 28 people responded on Facebook: 7 "going", 21 "interested". • Winnipeg supporters of the Convoy to Ottawa: 60 or more trucks and will stop at Costco's along the route for supplies
16 Feb 22 to 17 Feb 22	0600 hrs	Trades Support Truckers	Depart Sault Ste.Marie at 0600 hrs for Arnprior Meeting/staying in Arnprior - intending to enter Ottawa on 17 Feb 22 Unknown numbers attending - Facebook group has 15K members will join with Hard Hats for Freedom in Arnprior Dispatching via Zello app under Hard Hats for Freedom *anyone joining from Toronto is to meet at Bass Pro at 1100 hrs and go straight to Arnprior
16-Feb-22	1000 hrs	Hard Hats for Freedom	Departing Sudbury for Arnprior to meet up with Trades Support Truckers. See above.
19-Feb-22	1100 hrs	Dwayne SARAZIN – singing for freedom	• "Big Drum" will be in Ottawa Saturday at 1100 hrs • Singing for Freedom demonstration on the main stage • [redacted](aka Brian) [redacted] is a Pikwakanagan community member

19-Feb-22	U/K	Alberta Freedom Convoy 2022	• Attempts to fill a charter bus to Ottawa • Pickups in Red Deer, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Swift Current, Regina • Locations/timings to be confirmed

TORONTO - QUEEN'S PARK			
CURRENT SITUATION - TORONTO			
* see HENDON report			
ANTICIPATED EVENTS - TORONTO			
DATE	**TIME**	**NAME**	**COMMENTS**
19-Feb-22	1200 hrs	The Line Canada	Calling for "all individuals and organizations that oppose mandatory vaccinations are encouraged to attend"
19-Feb-22	1500 hrs	KKKonvoyGoHome	Counter Action/Demo Banner Drop over the DVP DVP pedestrian bridge near 450 Broadview Ave 16 people responded: 3 going, 13 interested

WINDSOR - AMBASSADOR BRIDGE			
CURRENT SITUATION - WINDSOR - AMBASSADOR BRIDGE			
* see HENDON report			
ANTICIPATED EVENTS - WINDSOR - AMBASSADOR BRIDGE			
DATE	**TIME**	**NAME**	**COMMENTS**
19-Feb-22	1400 hrs	HOLD THE LINE	• Location: Great Canadian Flag @ Windsor Waterfront • "Windsor just delayed Ambassador Bridge traffic for a week, and Castreau declared martial law. Let's talk about that."

NIAGARA FALLS / FORT ERIE PEACE BRIDGE			
CURRENT SITUATION - NIAGARA FALLS / FORT ERIE PEACE BRIDGE			
* see HENDON report			
ANTICIPATED EVENTS - NIAGARA FALLS / FORT ERIE PEACE BRIDGE			
DATE	**TIME**	**NAME**	**COMMENTS**

PROTECTED B – Third Party Rule –
Medium Sensitivity – Particularly sensitive information requiring protection. This report and the information contained herein is for the attention of selected law enforcement units and is not to be disseminated further without prior approval of the Director, or designate, Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau.

19-Feb-22	U/K	Niagara Peninsula Convoy 2022	"They have closed Sarnia and Windsor. The next step is the **Peace Bridge/ Queenston-Lewiston** slow roll/blockade." Indication is that it is a peaceful protest and no violence will be tolerated.
19-Feb-22	0930 hrs	OFFICIAL Freedom Canada Convoy 2022	Meeting at 815 York Road, Niagara on the Lake Travellng to the Peace Bridge to close it down

QUEENSTON-LEWISTON BRIDGE (NIAGARA ON THE LAKE)			
CURRENT SITUATION - QUEENSTON-LEWISTON BRIDGE			
* see HENDON report			
ANTICIPATED EVENTS - QUEENSTON-LEWISTON BRIDGE			
DATE	**TIME**	**NAME**	**COMMENTS**
19-Feb-22	U/K	Niagara Peninsula Convoy 2022	"Niagara Peninsula Convoy 2022" group with mention of a potential convoy to take the **Queenston-Lewiston Bridge** on Feb 19th 2022. No further information.

CORNWALL POE			
CURRENT SITUATION - CORNWALL POE			
* see HENDON report			
ANTICIPATED EVENTS - CORNWALL POE			
DATE	**TIME**	**NAME**	**COMMENTS**
19-Feb-22	U/K	U/K	Cornwall PS advising of possible protest on 19 Feb 22

OTHER AREAS / EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS - SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2022			
TIME	**LOCATION**	**NAME**	**COMMENTS**
U/K	Coutts, AB	Chris SKY	[redacted] aka Chris SKY attending Coutts AB with fuel and water
0800 hrs	Haldimand-Norfolk	Freedom Across Canada Together	"local awareness exercise for Canada" 110 people responded: 28 going, 82 interested
1100 hrs	Kawartha Lakes to Lindsay	Kawartha Lakes Convoy	Meeting at 10am at Redstone Quarry located at 1128 County Road 49 Depart 1100 hrs Route: Bobcaygeon-Fenelon Falls-Lindsay-Victoria Park to join Rise Up Kawartha

1200 hrs	Barrie	Support Convoy for Freedom Barrie	Meeting at 1030 hrs at 555 Bayview Dr (Sadlon Arena) Departure 1200 hrs
1400 hrs	Hamilton	Freedom of Choice Rally	Estimate 50-200 persons attending Michael BATOR, PPC party candidate likely to attend and deliver a speech Event from 1400 hrs to 1600 hrs
OTHER EVENTS - SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2022			
TIME	**LOCATION**	**NAME**	**COMMENTS**
U/K	Nipigon	Nipigon Bridge POE	Protest was scheduled for 13 Feb 2022 has been rescheduled for 26 Feb 2022
OTHER EVENTS - UNKNOWN DATE			
TIME	**LOCATION**	**NAME**	**COMMENTS**
U/K	Thunder Bay	Canada Unity - Operation BearHug Canada	"ThunderBay officially joined in the fun and has launched #BearHugCanada today... Strategic bridges, border crossings - 1000 tractors/farmers going to a border crossing with 5000 semis and personal vehicles." Post states it "has the potential of being another Windsor or Coutes".

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